

REMARKS

Claims 34-46 are pending in this application. Claims 40-42 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner as being directed to a non-elected species. By this Amendment, claim 34 is amended to incorporate the features of claim 35 and claim 35 is canceled. No new matter is added. Additional support for amended claim 34 may be found, for example, in Fig. 4.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiner Johnson at the interview held May 11, 2007 are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

Claims 34, 36-38 and 43-46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Bailey, U.S. Patent No. 5,621,183, in view of O'Loughlin et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,269,560.

Claims 34, 36-38, 43 and 45-46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Little, II, U.S. Patent No. 5,140,906, in view of O'Loughlin.

Claim 35 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Bailey in view of O'Loughlin and further in view of Stonestrom, U.S. Patent No. 2,921,520.

Claims 39 and 47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Bailey in view of O'Loughlin and further in view of Brisighella, U.S. Patent No. 6,341,562.

Claims 39 and 47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Little, II in view of O'Loughlin, and further in view of Brisighella.

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 34 is directed to an initiator for use in, for example, an airbag or seat-belt pre-tensioner, that comprises, in pertinent part:

a conductive header...a first lead pin integrally assembled to the conductive header;

a second lead pin integrally assembled to a hole formed in the conductive header via an insulating member and penetrating the conductive header and the insulating member; ...

a cup-shaped casing airtightly fixed, ... to an outer circumference of the conductive header ...wherein

the hole of the conductive header and the insulating member fitted into the hole have respective taper portions in a region where the insulating member is joined to the conductive header,

the taper portions have diameters that decrease with increasing distance from the explosive, and

the taper portions are provided continuously over the entire region where the insulating member is joined to the conductive head.

As discussed during the interview, the combinations of Bailey, O'Loughlin and Stonestrom or Little, O'Loughlin and Stonestrom do not teach or suggest at least the features noted above in claim 34.

Bailey, Little and O'Loughlin each fail to teach or suggest taper portions that are provided continuously over the entire region where the insulating member is joined to the conductive head. The Office Action acknowledges that neither Bailey nor Little teach or suggest a tapered portion between the insulating member and conductive header (*See* Office Action, pages 3 and 6.) The Office Action relies on O'Loughlin for allegedly teaching this feature. However, O'Loughlin's tapered portions do not extend over the entire region of the initiator 142. Moreover, O'Loughlin's welds 144 assist in retaining the weld adaptor 150 and therefore, the igniter 142 within the O'Loughlin device. Therefore, O'Loughlin teaches away from taper portions that are provided continuously over the entire region because it is unnecessary to do so because of the welds.

In view of the Remarks presented herein and in Applicants' Request for Reconsideration filed May 7, 2007, withdrawal of all 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103 rejections is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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